

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13148 201457Z

73

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-10 L-02 PRS-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

RSR-01 /076 W

----- 009800

R 201145Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4906

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13148

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR MOPS CA HU ID PL VS

SUBJ: MR IV SITREP FOR JULY 20, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NAKHON P  
HANO REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

CAN THO 587

SUMMARY: MR IV MILITARY ACTIVITY TAPERED OFF SLIGHTLY  
JULY 18-19, BUT WITH INCREASED FIGHTING REPORTED IN  
VINH LONG AND IN BASE AREA 470. AN ICCS INVESTIGATING  
TEAM WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE  
MINING INCIDENT WHICH KILLED THE VINH BINH PROVINCE  
CHIEF'S WIFE. MEANWHILE, HER HUSBAND REPORTEDLY WILL GO  
TO THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION AS DEPUTY COMMANDER. A CAN THO  
CROWD DEMONSTRATED AGAINST VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.  
AN AN XUYEN DISTRICT CHIEF IS REMOVED, PERHAPS FOR  
MURDERING HIS WIFE. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13148 201457Z

(A) MR IV REPORTED 37 ALLEGED VC/NVA

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JULY 18 AND 19 THE FOLLOWING DAY. AS USUAL, CHUONG THIEN SAW THE MOST ACTION, INCLUDING AN EARLY MORNING AMBUSH JULY 18 OF AN EIGHT-MAN RF PATROL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF VI THANH, IN WHICH FIVE RF WERE

KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. RVNAF CASUALTIES FOR THE TWO DAY PERIOD WERE 33 KILLED, 136 WOUNDED AND 22 MISSING. THE VC/NVA REPORTEDLY LOST 105 KILLED AND FIVE CAPTURED.

(B); MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED SOMEWHAT SINCE JULY 10 IN VINH LONG. REPORTED INCIDENTS ARE RUNNING ABOUT FIVE OR SIX PER DAY, COMPARED WITH FOUR PER DAY DURING THE THREE WEEKS FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE II (CAN THO 0554). AVERAGE DAILY CASUALTIES ARE TWO GVN AND FIVE OR SIX VC REPORTED KILLED AND THREE OR FOUR GVN WOUNDED. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS OCCUR IN TRA ON AND VUNG LIEM DISTRICTS AND RESULT FROM SECTOR FORCES ON DAYTIME PATROLS. SECTOR REPORTS THESE INCIDENTS AS VC ATTACKS UPON FRIENDLY TROOPS. FROM JUNE 15 TO JULY 17 VINH LONG HAS WITNESSED 148 INCIDENTS, WITH THE GVN SUFFERING 44 KILLED, 180 WOUNDED, AND 29 MISSING. THE VC REPORTEDLY LOST 85 KILLED AND TWO CAPTURED. THE GVN LOST 51 WEAPONS AND CAPTURED 38. SIX CIVILIANS WERE KILLED. SEVEN WOUNDED, AND FIVE MISSING.

(C) THE VC ARE BEGINNING TO SERIOUSLY CONTEST ARVN OPERATIONS IN BASE AREA 470 IN DINH TUONG AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES. ARVN PENETRATED THE AREA IN EARLY JUNE WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE RESISTANCE, BUT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS THE NUMBER OF VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS THERE HAS INCREASED. THE VC MORTARED HAU MY VILLAGE, CAI BE DISTRICT, DINH TUONG, JULY 17, KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING TWO OTHERS (CAN THO 0582). THE NEXT DAY, ARVN UNITS MADE CONTACT WITH THE VC IN THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS NEAR TRI PHAP VILLAGE, KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. IN ONE ENCOUNTER, THE 3RD BATTALION, 14TH REGIMENT, 9TH ARVN DIVISION, CLAIMED TEN VC KILLED. A NUMBER OF MINING INCIDENTS JULY 17-18 ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 20, WHICH CONNECTS HAU MY VILLAGE AND INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 4, KILLED THREE GVN SOLDIERS, WOUNDED FOUR, AND DAMAGED THREE TRUCKS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13148 201457Z

THE VC APPARENTLY ARE TRYING TO CLOSE THE ROAD, WHICH WAS OPENED TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC IN MAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS.

2. ICCS/JMC:

(A) THE FOUR ICCS DELEGATIONS AT KHANH HUNG (SOC TRANG) HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE CIR-

CUMSTANCES OF THE JUNE 20 MINING INCIDENT IN VINH BINH WHICH TOOK THE LIFE OF THE FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF'S WIFE AND FIVE OTHERS (CAN THO 0484). EACH DELEGATION HAS FILED A SEPARATE REPORT. ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE CANADIAN TEAM, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED TO DISCUSS ALLEGED "CONTRADICTIONS" SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT, EVEN THOUGH THE PARIS AGREEMENT CALLS FOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE ICCS MEMBERS. THE CANADIAN TOLD HIS REGION VII CHIEF THAT THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN CONDUCT "PROVIDES INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF" THAT THEY "ARE ACTING UNDER ORDERS NOT TO FIND THE PRG GUILTY OF VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT."

(B) REGION VII GVN/JMC CHIEF COL NGUYEN TIEN LOC TOLD THE AMERICAN CONSUL JULY 18 THAT HE IS RELUCTANT TO SUBMIT CEASEFIRE COMPLAINTS TO THE ICCS NOW THAT THE CANADIANS WILL NO LONGER BE A PARTY TO INVESTIGATIONS. MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI TOLD LOC THAT MORNING TO CHECK WITH JMC SAIGON FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

### 3. GVN ACTIVITIES:

(A) WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPOSED VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM WILL SOON BECOME DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION. KIEM IS CLOSE TO DIVISION COMMANDER BGEN LE VAN HUNG, UNDER WHOM KIEM SERVED WHEN HUNG LED THE 21ST DIVISION'S 31ST REGIMENT.

(B) A BANNER WAVING CROWD OF ABOUT 1000 DEMONSTRATED PEACEFULLY AGAINST VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 20, IN FRONT OF THE PHONG DINH PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS, CAN THO. THE GROUP WAS WELL ORGANIZED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13148 201457Z

AND APPEARED TO BE LARGELY STUDENTS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND PSDF. A DELEGATION OF CITIZENS WITH RELATIVES KILLED OR KIDNAPPED BY THE VC PRESENTED A PETITION TO PROVINCE CHIEF COL LE NGOC DAY TO BE FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT THIEU. HOA HAO, BUDDHIST AND DAN CHU PARTY LEADERS ADDRESSED THE CROWD, WHICH QUIETLY DISPERSED ABOUT 0915 HOURS.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: CPT TRUONG THANH PHUOC, HAI YEN DISTRICT CHIEF, AN XUYEN PROVINCE, WAS REPLACED JULY 1 BY MAJ NGUYEN VAN HONG, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE 492 RF BATTALION. NO OFFICIAL REASON WAS GIVEN, BUT PHUOC HAS BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE, CORRUPTION, EXCESSIVE DRINKING AND GAMBLING, AND IMPERSONATING A MAJOR (CAN THO 0433). SEVERAL

MONTHS AGO AN ARVN SSSERGEANT IN HAI YEN REPORTED TO REGION THAT HE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO KILL THE DISTRICT CHIEF'S WIFE. HE REFUSED AND REQUESTED A TRANSFER. ON APRIL 20, PHUOC'S WIFE, SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT WITH HER NINTH CHILD, WAS SHOT AND KILLED. HER DEATH WAS INITIALLY BLAMED ON THE VC, BUT AN INVESTIGATION TURNED UP AN UNIDENTIFIED ARVN SERGEANT WHO CONFESSED AND CLAIMED HE ACTED ON PHUOC'S ORDERS. THE INVESTIGATORS ALSO FOUND EVIDENCE OF PHUOC'S BLATANT CORRUPTION AND DISCOVERED THAT THE CAPTAIN FREQUENTLY WENT ABOUT WEARING A MAJOR'S INSIGNIA. WE UNDERSTAND PHUOC'S WIFE PUBLICALLY TOOK EXCEPTION TO HER HUSBAND'S NOTORIOUS PHILANDERY, AND SHE MAY HAVE PUSHED HIM TOO FAR. PHUOC WAS ORDERED TO SAIGON, AND HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNKNOWN. SIGNED LEHMANN  
UNQUOTE MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON13148  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MARTIN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaoio.tel  
**Line Count:** 185  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MR IV SITREP FOR JULY 20, 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NAKHON P  
**TAGS:** MARR, MOPS, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005